Coalfields Limited (CCL) 5 workers were killed and one was seriously injured due to fall of immediate roof. The seriously injured worker is under treatment at Apollo Hospital, New Delhi and is out of danger.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) To prevent such accidents in future, the following steps have been taken:

(1) Special investigaton team consisting of one executive from headquarters, Area Safety Officer of concerned area and Manager of respective mine has been constituted for each underground mine of CCL to identify the Districts which are healthy from the safety point of view and which need improvement with regard to compliance of safety requirements. The team will pay particular attention to the efficacy of roof management in all Districts especially green roof and stowing status in depillaring mines where sand stowing is required.

(2) Support drive has been arranged in the month of July, 1998 covering each and every District of all underground mines so as to establish fully the system of roof support and that workers do not work under unsupported roof.

(3) All CGMs/GMs of Areas have been directed to enforce handing oer/taking over charge by mining staff in the District.

(4) Check-list has been formulated for inspection by shift incharge, mine incharge, asstt. colliery manager, manager and safety officers covering the vital aspect of roof management, blasting, haulage, safety devices, ventilation etc.

(5) One high level task force has been constituted, consisting of CGM (Operations), CGM (S&R) and concerned GM/CGM of areas to examine the safety status of operational aspects in detail so that safety status in the underground District is fully scrutinised and vetted.

6) Surprise inspections by mining executives of area and Headquaraters have been arranged. This accident has been discussed at Unit level pit safety committee meetings to arouse general safety consciousness among workers.

(e) A sum of Rs. 13.43 lakhs has been paid to the dependants of 5 employees who died in the mine accident towards gratuity, compensation, exgratia, employees benevolent fund and life cover scheme.

(f) Four executives and three non-executives found to be responsible for the accident, as revealed by the Internal Safety Organisaiton enquiry, have been placed under suspension pending completion of inquiry into the charge-sheets issued to them.

Lignite Mines in the Country

3531. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lignite mines in the country which have a scope for commercial mining;

(b) the estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of lignite reserves out of the above reserves which have been kept reserved for the purpose of power generation; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any time bound programme for generation of power in the State with the assistance from private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) 23 lignite mines in India have the potential for commercial exploitation.

(b) the lignite reserves in these 23 mines, State-wise, are given below:—

(1)	Tamilnadu	:	14965.00 MT
(2)	Gujarat	:	462.20 MT
(3)	Rajasthan	:	542.00 MT

(c) No lignite reserve is exclusively earmarked for power generation. However, a demand of 42.75 Million Tonnes of lignite for power generation has been estimated by the Working Group on Coal and Lignite during the IXth Plan period (1997-2002).

(d) An additional capacity of 17,569 MW of power is proposed to be implemented in the private sector in the IXth Plan period (1997-2002). This additional capacity is to be generated using all types of fuels including lignite.

कोयला उद्योग में श्रमिकों की भागीदारी

3532. **श्री अखिलेश दास:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कोयला उद्योग की सभी गैर-सरकारी इकाइयों में प्रबंधन में श्रमिकों की भागीदारी योजना को लागू किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस योजना को लागू करने के पश्चात उत्पादन में वृद्धि हुई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) कोल इंडिया लि॰ और नेयवेली लिग्नाइट कारपोरेशन लि॰, कोयला मंत्रालय के अधीन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम हैं।

(ख) से (घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Closure of coal mines

3533. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Eastern Coalfields Ltd. have decided to close down six mines under Sripur, pandavesar, Satgram and Salanpur areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision to close down these mines was taken arbitrarily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The production in six highly loss making mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has been suspended. The name of the six mines and the reasons for suspension of production in the mines are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the mines	Reasons for suspension of production
(i)	Kankartala	Economic unviability and high losses
(ii)	Nutandanga	—do—
(iii)	Pure Searsole	—do—
(iv)	Samla No. 3 Inc.	—do—
(v)	Sangramgarh	—do—
(vi)	Sripur	Unsafe mining conditions

(c) Some trade unions have protested against the suspension of production in these mines. Before suspension of production from these mines the matter was discussed by the ECL management in several Joint Consultative Committee Meetings with the trade union. A fact-finding Committee has been constituted by the ECL management to go into the details of the circumstances leading to the suspension of the mining operations. The trade unions have been informed that the workers of these mines have been suitably redeployed in other mines of ECL and no worker has been laid off, nor the service conditions of the workers have been affected.

Dankuni Coal Complex to Private Foreign Company

3534. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: